



Guests tour one of the turbines of America's first offshore wind farm, owned by the Danish company, Orsted, off the coast of Block Island, R.I., as part of a wind power conference, Oct. 17, 2022.  
Associated Press

## Most in U.S. want more action on climate change: AP-NORC poll

By MATTHEW DALY and  
NUHA DOLBY  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly two-thirds of Americans think the federal government is not doing enough to fight climate change, according to a new poll that shows limited public awareness about a sweeping new law that commits

the U.S. to its largest ever investment to combat global warming.

Democrats in Congress approved the Inflation Reduction Act in August, handing President Joe Biden a hard-fought triumph on priorities that his party hopes will bolster prospects for keeping their House and Senate majorities in November's

elections.

Biden and Democratic lawmakers have touted the new law as a milestone achievement leading into the midterm elections, and environmental groups have spent millions to boost the measure in battleground states.

Continued on Page 2

## Aruba successful in bid to purchase Heavy Fuel Oil from Ecuador



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# Most in U.S. want more action on climate change: AP-NORC poll



President Joe Biden signs the Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, as from left, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., and Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., watch.

Associated Press

## Continued from Front

Yet the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 61% of U.S. adults say they know little to nothing about it.

While the law was widely heralded as the largest investment in climate spending in history, 49% of Americans say it won't make much of a difference on climate change, 33% say it will help and 14% think it will do more to hurt it.

The measure, which passed without a single Republican vote in either chamber, offers nearly \$375 billion in incentives to accelerate expansion of clean energy such as wind and solar power, speeding the transition away from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas that largely cause climate change.

Combined with spending by states and the private sector, the law could help shrink U.S. carbon emissions by about two-fifths by 2030 and chop emissions from electricity by as much as 80%, advocates say.

Michael Katz, 84, of Temple,

New Hampshire, said he thinks Biden has "done an amazing amount of work" as president. "I'm sort of in awe of what he's done," said Katz, a Democrat and retired photographer. Still, asked his opinion of the Inflation Reduction Act, Katz said, "I'm not acquainted with" it.

After learning about the law's provisions, Katz said he supports increased spending for wind and solar power, along with incentives to purchase electric vehicles.

Even stronger measures — such as restrictions on rebuilding in coastal areas damaged by Hurricane Ian or other storms — are warranted, Katz said, but he doubts they'll ever be approved.

"People want their dreams to come true: to live near the ocean in a big house," he said.

Leah Stokes, an environmental policy professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said she was not surprised the climate law is so little known, despite massive media coverage when it was debated

in Congress, approved and signed by Biden.

The law was passed during the summer, when people traditionally pay less attention to news, "and it takes time to explain it," especially since many of the law's provisions have not yet kicked in, Stokes said.

Biden and congressional Democrats "delivered in a big way on climate," she said, but now must focus on helping the public understand the law and "winning the win."

Meredith McGroarty, a waitress from Pontiac, Michigan, said she was unfamiliar with the new law but supports increased climate action. "I have children I'm leaving behind to this world," she said.

McGroarty, 40, a Democrat, urged Biden and other leaders to talk more about the climate law's "effects on normal, everyday people. Let us know what's going on a little more."

Americans are generally more likely to support than oppose many of the government actions on climate change included in the law, the poll shows.

That includes incentives for electric vehicles and solar panels, though relatively few say they are inclined to pursue either in the next three years.

About half of Americans think government action that targets companies with restrictions is very important, the poll shows, while about a third say that about restrictions on individuals. A majority of Americans, 62%, say companies' refusal to reduce energy use is a major problem for efforts to reduce climate change, while just about half say people not willing to reduce their energy use is a major problem.

Slightly more than half also say it's a major problem that the energy industry is not doing enough to supply power from renewable sources such as wind and solar, and about half say the government is not investing enough in renewable energy.

Overall, 62% of U.S. adults say the government is doing too little to reduce climate change, while 19% say it's doing too much and 18% think it's doing the

right amount.

Democrats are more likely than others to think the federal government is doing too little on climate: 79% say that, compared to 67% of independents and 39% of Republicans. About three-quarters of Black and Hispanic Americans think there's too little action, compared to about half of white Americans.

And about three-quarters of adults under 45 think there's too little action on climate, significantly higher than the roughly half of those older who think that. Robert Stavins, professor of energy and economic development at the Harvard Kennedy School, said it makes sense for the government to step in to promote renewable energy on a large scale.

"Individual action is not going to be sufficient in 10 or even 20 years," he said. "You need government policies to create incentives for industry and individuals to move in a carbon-friendly direction."

Americans want to own a car, "and they are not going to buy one that's expensive," Stavins said, so government needs to lower costs for electric vehicles and encourage automakers to produce more EVs, including widespread availability of charging stations. Biden has set a goal to install 500,000 charging stations across America as part of the 2021 infrastructure law.

On renewable energy, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults say offshore wind farms should be expanded, and about 6 in 10 say solar panel farms should be expanded. Biden has moved to expand offshore wind and solar power as president.

Americans are divided on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas. Around a third say such drilling should be expanded, while about as many say it should be reduced; another third say neither.

Republicans were more likely than Democrats to be in favor of expanding offshore drilling, 54% to 20%. □



# Ash Carter, defense chief who opened combat to women, dies

By **TARA COPP**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who opened combat jobs to women and ended a ban on transgender people serving in the military, has died at age 68. Carter died Monday evening after suffering a heart attack in Boston, his family said in a statement Tuesday. Known as a defense thinker and strategist, Carter was a nuclear expert, three-time Pentagon executive, budget guru and academician who had served as a defense civilian in the building over a period of 35 years.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted at Carter's retirement ceremony in 2017 that his focus on the less glamorous aspects of the job such as people management had made him known as the "most important, least known figure in Washington." Carter had not previously served in the military but mastered the nuts and bolts of the Defense Department, a skill set that helped him quietly shape notable change, particularly when it came to who was allowed to serve in uniform. In December 2015, after three years of study and debate, Carter ordered the military to open all jobs to women, removing the final barriers that kept women from serving in combat, including the most dangerous and grueling commando posts.

"I made the decision to admit women to all military specialties without exception," Carter said in a later interview on the decision. "They are 50% of the population. We can't afford to leave off the table half of the population who can, if they're the ones who have the best qualifications, do the job."

The following year, Carter, was responsible for ending the ban on transgender troops, saying it was the right thing to do.

"Americans who want to serve and can meet our standards should be af-

forded the opportunity to compete to do so," Carter said in June 2016, laying out a one-year plan to implement the change. "Our mission is to defend this country, and we don't want barriers unrelated to a person's qualification to serve preventing us from recruiting or retaining the soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who can best accomplish the mission."

Before Carter was named the Defense Department secretary, he served in President Barack Obama's administration as the Pentagon's top procurement officer and oversaw the department's effort to speed more than 24,000 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to Iraq and Afghanistan during the height of both conflicts to better protect U.S. troops.

At the time, thousands of U.S. troops were being maimed or killed by roadside bombs because there was not adequate protection in the vehicles they were operating. Carter frequently mentioned the rapid development and procurement of those vehicles as one of his proudest accomplishments.

"At peak production, the United States shipped over 1,000 MRAPs a month to theater. And there, they saved lives," Carter said at a 2012 ceremony marking the completion of the vehicle production. "And you all know me, I would have driven one in here today, if I could get it through the door." Carter was sworn in as defense secretary in February 2015. He was immediately confronted with the rise of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria and China's rapid militarization of islands in the South China Sea. During his tenure Carter oversaw the Obama administration's "Pivot to the Pacific," an attempt to rebalance military resources and focus on a rising China. He traveled multiple times to U.S. aircraft carriers in the Pacific as the U.S. increased its naval presence there to counter Beijing's own more aggressive stance. □



Defense Secretary Ash Carter speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon, June 30, 2016. Carter, who served as secretary of defense in the final two years of the Obama administration, has died at age 68.

Associated Press

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# Heat deaths in Arizona's biggest county outpace last year's

By ANITA SNOW

Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — This summer was the deadliest on record for heat-associated fatalities in Arizona's largest county amid a growing wave of homelessness. Public health statistics this week confirmed a record 359 such deaths just days before the end of the six-month heat season.

The jump in deaths raises questions about how to better protect vulnerable people not only in the desert Southwest, where temperatures regularly hit triple digits, but also in more temperate areas where climate change has fueled more intense, frequent and enduring heat waves.

According to the National Weather Service, the highest temperature recorded this year at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport was 115 degrees (46.1 C) on July 11, with the mercury hitting 114 degrees (45.5 C) on June 11 and July 16 and 22.

Maricopa County's heat-associated fatalities this year have outpaced the 339 deaths confirmed in 2021 and the final number could be higher still, with another 91 deaths still under investigation.

The county has more than a decade of experience tracking heat deaths, but comparable figures are

hard to come by in other counties, said Amy Schwab, a Phoenix-based public health official. "It's not just the heat," said Amy Schwab.



Salvation Army volunteer Cleon Streitmatter hands out water bottles at a Salvation Army heat relief station as temperatures hit 114-degrees, Monday, July 11, 2022, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

areas such as the Pacific Northwest, which has only experienced intense heat waves in recent years.

In California, researchers have found that unsheltered people especially those with a mental illness were significantly more likely to end up in the hospital during extreme heat than housed people, based on a study of emergency room admissions.

Nearly 80% of the heat-associated deaths in Maricopa County this year oc-

curring outdoors, but the preliminary heat reports for this year don't estimate how many of the deaths were among the homeless rather than people who were working outside or were outdoors for other reasons. But the increase comes amid a surge in people living outside in metro Phoenix, with hundreds of homeless individuals sleeping in tents downtown amid soaring rents and evictions. "With so many more homeless people, it makes sense that more would die in the

benlender, executive director of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix that brings together agencies assisting homeless people.

Information about the role that substance use played in this year's heat-associated deaths is not yet available.

But last year, substance use was a factor in 60% of those fatalities in Maricopa County. Methamphetamine was found in 91% of the deaths involving drugs, and fen-

tanyl, an opioid, was found in 30%.

While fentanyl is more likely to result in overdose, meth can create changes to the body that make a user more vulnerable to the heat, heightening the blood pressure, heart and respiratory rate.

Homeless people accounted for 38% of the deaths involving drugs in 2021.

Males, African Americans, Indigenous Americans and those ages 75 and over had the highest rates of heat-associated deaths in the county in 2021.

David Hondula, director of the year-old Office of Heat Response and Mitigation for the city of the Phoenix, said in a report to City Council last week that his team is studying the numbers to understand what is behind the increase in deaths and how to plan for next summer.

Hondula said heat-related calls for assistance to the Phoenix Fire Department over the summer were expected to end up at least 10-20% above 2021.

The city fire department responded to 1,670 calls for service related to the heat between April 1 and September 30, a 13.6% increase over the same period in 2021. The highest density of calls came from Phoenix's central and downtown urban areas. □

# Ian's damage to Florida agriculture as high as \$1.8 billion

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Hurricane Ian caused as much

as \$1.8 billion in damages to Florida agriculture last



Fifth generation farmer Roy Petteway looks at the damage to his citrus grove from the effects of Hurricane Ian on Oct. 12, 2022, in Zolfo Springs, Fla.

Associated Press

month, state agriculture officials said.

The Category 4 storm caused between \$1.1 billion and \$1.8 billion in losses to the state's crops and agriculture infrastructure when it tore through the peninsula after landing in southwest Florida, according to a preliminary estimate released Monday by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The agency's estimate was in the same range as a University of Florida preliminary estimate released last week that put Florida's ag-

riculture loss as high as \$1.5 billion.

Crop damage ranged from \$686 million to \$1.2 billion. The biggest losses came from citrus which had damages between \$416 million and \$675 million, the Department of Agriculture report said. The hurricane hit almost at the start of the citrus growing season in Florida, which produces about 60% of all the citrus consumed in the U.S.

Not only did citrus growers lose fruit that was blown off trees, but they now face the prospect of damaged trees from flooding. The loss

could amount to as much as 11% of citrus trees, the report said. Even before the hurricane, Florida's orange production was predicted to be down by almost a third this season because of the deadly citrus greening disease. When it comes to non-citrus fruits and vegetables, Florida lost an estimated \$153.7 million to \$230.5 million, or around 10% to 15% of crops, just as the planting season was getting into full gear. Many fields lost plastic and drip-tape irrigation and other infrastructure, the report said. □



# Report: More than 29,000 migrants to Europe died since 2014

By **RENATA BRITO** and **GIA-DA ZAMPANO**

**Associated Press**

**ROME (AP)** — More than 29,000 migrants have died trying to reach Europe since 2014, with 5,000 deaths in the last two years, the International Organization for Migration said in a report Tuesday.

The U.N. agency's Missing Migrants Project spoke of "increasing numbers of deaths seen on routes across the Mediterranean, on land borders to Europe and within the continent." According to its report, the deadliest migration route continues to be the Central Mediterranean, where 2,836 people have died since January 2021 attempting to reach Italy or Malta, mainly from Libya and Tunisia.

The latest known casualties were newborn twins who died on a boat that had left Tunisia carrying 60 people. The Italian coast guard picked up the survivors Tuesday and took them to the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Rescue operations on that route by Italian military vessels and charity-operated boats off Italy's southern coasts have intensified in recent weeks, with humani-



**Bodies are disembarked on the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa, Italy, Oct. 21, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

tarian ships often waiting days before obtaining permission to dock in Italian ports.

Hundreds of rescued people have been temporarily sheltered at an overcrowded reception center on Lampedusa, where new arrivals are registered daily. According to the IOM report, the second-deadliest path was the Atlantic route from West Africa to Spain's Canary Islands, where more than 1,500 deaths were recorded since 2021. Researchers said their tally

was likely an undercount as it didn't include boats that vanish at sea without witnesses.

Rising numbers of deaths also were observed in other areas that border Europe, as well as in Greece, the Western Balkans and the English Channel, according to the report.

The dead whose nationalities are known were mainly from Africa and the Middle East.

But for more than 17,000, the country of origin is unknown.

Many of the deaths "could have been prevented by prompt and effective assistance to migrants in distress," the Missing Migrants Project said.

The Italian coast guard on Tuesday rescued about 400 people from a boat that left from Libya, according to Alarm Phone, a volunteer-run hotline for migrants and refugees in trouble at sea. Italy's coast guard did not immediately return phone and email messages about the incident.

Alarm Phone also said that

two large wooden boats carrying nearly 1,400 people combined left together from eastern Libya and reached Italy and Malta's search and rescue zones in distressed conditions Tuesday.

A huge rescue operation is needed!" the group tweeted.

Ten hours later, without any news from authorities about their rescue, the group tweeted again: "People in danger reported that 12 people have died or are unconscious and many suffer from dehydration."

Italy has struggled for more than a decade to prevent migrants crossing in smugglers' boats from north Africa.

In her first speech to parliament, Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday pledged a crackdown on irregular migration, relaunching the idea of a naval blockade on boats leaving north Africa.

"We want to stop illegal departures, finally smashing human trafficking in the Mediterranean," Meloni said, adding that her government would present a proposal to the European Union for an operation in agreement with authorities in North Africa. □

# U.S. vows full military defense of allies against North Korea

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — The United States will make full use of its military capabilities, "including nuclear, conventional and missile defense," to defend its allies Japan and South Korea, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Tuesday as she warned North Korea against escalating its provocations.

Sherman said North Korea's repeated firings of ballistic missiles and artillery in recent weeks were provocative military actions. North Korea has described them as practice runs for the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

"This is deeply irresponsible, dangerous, and destabiliz-

ing," Sherman said in talks in Tokyo with South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyungdong. The two officials met ahead of a three-way meeting with their Japanese counterpart on Wednesday.

It will be second in-person meeting of the three officials since conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol took office in May, signaling an improvement in difficult ties between Japan and South Korea. A year ago, Japanese and South Korean vice ministers declined to participate in a joint news conference after three-way talks in Washington, leaving Sherman to make a solo media appearance. Sherman said North Korea

needs to understand that the U.S. commitment to the security of South Korea and Japan is "ironclad."

"And we will use the full range of U.S. defense capabilities to defend our allies, including nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities," she said.

Cho, during his talks with Sherman, raised concern that a new North Korean nuclear weapons policy adopted in September increases the possibility of its arbitrary use of nuclear weapons. "This is creating serious tension on the Korean Peninsula," Cho said. Sherman met earlier Tuesday with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and reaffirmed the further



**U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, left, and her counterpart, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori pose for a photo before their meeting at the Iikura guesthouse in Tokyo, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance and other shared goals, including the complete denuclearization

of North Korea and their joint response to China's increasingly assertive actions in the region. □



# Japan steps up push to get public buy-in to digital IDs

By YURI KAGEYAMA  
AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan has stepped up its push to catch up on digitization by telling a reluctant public they have to sign up for digital IDs or possibly lose access to their public health insurance.

As the naming implies, the initiative is about assigning numbers to people, similar to Social Security numbers in the U.S. Many Japanese worry the information might be misused or that their personal information might be stolen.

Some view the My Number effort as a violation of their right to privacy.

So the system that kicked off in 2016 has never fully caught on. Fax machines are still commonplace, and many Japanese conduct much of their business in person, with cash. Some bureaucratic procedures can be done online, but many Japanese offices still require “inkan,” or seals for stamping, for identification, and insist on people bringing paper forms to offices.

Now the government is asking people to apply for plastic My Number cards equipped with microchips and photos, to be linked



Japanese actor Masato Sakai shows a sample of My Number card during a promotional event in Tokyo on March 8, 2021.

to drivers licenses and the public health insurance plans.

Health insurance cards now in use, which lack photos, will be discontinued in late 2024. People will be required to use My Number cards instead.

That has drawn a backlash, with an online petition demanding a continuation of the current health cards drawing more than 100,000 signatures in a few days.

Opponents of the change say the current system has been working for decades and going digital would require extra work at a time when the pandemic is still straining the medical system.

But the reluctance to go digital extends beyond the health care system. After numerous scandals over leaks and other mistakes, many Japanese distrust the government's handling

of data. They're also wary about government overreach, partly a legacy of authoritarian regimes before and during World War II.

Saeko Fujimori, who works in the music copyright business, said she's supposed to get My Number information from the people she deals with, but many balk at giving it out. And no one is all that surprised she has trouble getting that infor-

mation, given how unpopular it is.

“There is a microchip in it, and that means there could be fraud,” said Fujimori, who has a My Number but doesn't intend to get the new card. “If a machine is reading all the information, that can lead to mistakes in the medical sector, too.”

“If this was coming from a trustworthy leadership and the economy was thriving, maybe we would think about it, but not now,” Fujimori said.

Something drastic may have to happen for people to accept such changes, just as it took a devastating defeat in World War II for Japan to transform itself into an economic powerhouse, said Hidenori Watanabe, a professor at the University of Tokyo.

“There's resistance playing out everywhere,” he said. Japanese traditionally take pride in meticulous, handcraft-quality workmanship and many also devote themselves to carefully keeping track of documents and neatly filing them away.

“There are too many people worried their jobs are going to disappear.”

Associated Press

# Lebanon: Mediation ongoing for Austin Tice, held in Syria

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Lebanon is still mediating between the United States and Syria over the fate of American

journalist Austin Tice who went missing a decade ago in the war-torn country, a Lebanese general

said Tuesday.

Washington maintains that Tice is held by Syrian authorities.

Tice went missing shortly after his 31st birthday on Aug. 14, 2012, at a checkpoint in a contested area west of the Syrian capital of Damascus. A video released a month later showed him blindfolded and held by armed men. He has not been heard from since.

Lebanese Maj. Gen. Abbas Ibrahim, who met with U.S. officials in Washington in May as part of mediation efforts for Tice's release, told reporters in Beirut on Tuesday that his mission is ongoing but described it as “long and complicated.”

Ibrahim, head of Lebanon's

General Security Directorate, has mediated complicated hostage releases in the past and regularly visits Syria.

In August, President Joe Biden accused Syria of detaining Tice, the clearest indication so far that the U.S. is certain that the journalist is being held by President Bashar Assad's government. Just few months earlier, in May, Biden met Tice's parents and reiterated his commitment toward “Austin's long overdue return to his family.”

Syria promptly denied holding Tice or other Americans. At the Beirut press conference, Ibrahim struck an upbeat tone.

“Matters might be moving

slowly but they are going as they should,” he said. “The back-and-forth negotiations did not stop.”

Tice, from Houston, is one of two Americans who went missing in Syria. The other is Majd Kamalmaz, a psychologist from Virginia, who vanished there in 2017.

Tice's work has been published by The Washington Post, McClatchy newspapers and other outlets. He went to Syria to cover the conflict that started in 2011, quickly descending into a full-blown civil war. The war has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced nearly half of Syria's pre-conflict population of 23 million. More than 5 million of those are now outside Syria.



Marc and Debra Tice, the parents of Austin Tice, who is missing in Syria for nearly six years, speak during a press conference, at the Press Club, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018.

Associated Press



## Aruba successful in bid to purchase Heavy Fuel Oil from Ecuador



**During a recent press conference, minister of Labor, Energy and Integration, Mr. Glenbert Croes informed local media about his recent travel together with a commission to Ecuador to look for the opportunity to purchase heavy fuel oil – the fuel used by WEB Aruba NV to produce water and electricity – at a better price. “I can say that we achieved this goal”, minister Croes said.**

Croes mentioned that there was criticism that this fuel from Ecuador is of lesser quality, but he said the reality is that in the past three years, about 50 percent of fuel that WEB Aruba NV purchases from abroad was already coming from Ecuador, and the other 50 percent came from Colombia, Puerto Rico and the United States.

Before this fuel boards a ship, specialist inspectors for HFO imported to Aruba from WEB Aruba NV must approve the HFO. WEB purchases this at the Fuels Marketing and Supply Aruba (FMSA), who are in charge of the purchases.

Seeing as the opportunity to purchase HFO from Ecuador presented itself, a delegation of executives from the Aruba Refinery (RdA) and FMSA in the coming weeks, led by Mr. Edison Briesen as commissary president of RdA will travel to finalize these agreements.

“We are immensely pleased because the fact that we can purchase HFO at a better price than we are currently getting gives us the opportunity to reduce the price of water and electricity, because the goal is for the discount to translate in the reduction of the price of water and electricity for our entire community”, Croes said.

He insisted that this is very important because he noted the impact of the increase in price of water and electricity – and in his opinion, this took place without the

approval and authorization of the Government of Aruba. “We saw the bills for water and electricity when these came out, and particularly the one for electricity, we saw very high bills, and in our opinion this is without the approval and authorization of the government of Aruba”, the minister insisted.

Utilities, Elmar and WEB Aruba NV are investigating if anything went wrong regarding the higher-than-usual bills. “And in any case there is no justification for the high bills that came out, and because of this there needs to be a correction in this before the payment [is due] on the 14th of November, because there needs to be a solution that the people can carry”, he pointed out.

Regarding a better price, minister Croes indicated that they are getting this through the elimination of a middleman, which is very significant. There were two middlemen between FMSA and Petroecuador, and this week they will work on defining the way of connection.

Croes explained that even so, they are not abandoning their efforts in Washington to purchase HFO of Venezuela origin. But in the meantime, the mission in Ecuador produced positive results. He thanked minister of Energy of Ecuador, Xavier Vera Grunauer and



his delegation, as well as the general manager of Petroecuador, Hugo Aguiar Lozano together with his delegation for the support in Ecuador. Minister Croes received assistance from the general consul of the Netherlands in Ecuador, Diego Almeida Guzman where he also received support from the Dutch embassy and the plenipotentiary minister of Aruba in Washington, Joselyn Croes.

“The trip to Ecuador produced more results in the context of co-operation between governments which we want to achieve between Aruba and Ecuador. There was also the proposition for a tanker fleet in Ecuador Flopec”, he said.

Flopec (Ecuadorian tanker fleet) in the future could use Aruba as a logistic base in this region, which means good news for the storage tanks that Aruba has in RdA as well as great news for the maritime activities in our region, which will also generate income for logistics companies that provide service to ships that dock and carry out operations in our territorial waters, according to Croes.

Petroecuador is the national oil company of Ecuador with capacity for extraction, production, and operation. Croes said in the context of the reactivation of RdA based on natural gas, “as long as there is a possibility for the refinery, that we are in energetic transition, refineries around the world will not stay alive a lot longer but in the meantime you can make use of it”.

Croes announced that Petroecuador has the possibility to make crude oil from Ecuador available for the plans of reactivation that Aruba has for our refinery. “Our refinery will have a life for as long as the world has a possibility for this. But seeing the interest in different projects, like the establishment of hydrogen facilities on the solar refinery, this will be our next step”, he emphasized. □







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## Nikkei Sushi Bar, not just a sushi bar



**Nikkei is a name commonly used in Japan to refer to people of Japanese ancestry that are living abroad as citizens of other countries. It refers to the mix of cuisine and culture of the Japanese migrants in Peru. In time, successive generations created the cuisine that is generally known as Nikkei.**

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## UNESCO Aruba celebrates its 35th anniversary as a UNESCO member



Oranjestad – During a recently held press conference in connection with the 35th-anniversary celebration, UNESCO Aruba's Secretary General, Mrs. Marushka Tromp, shared information about UNESCO Aruba and what they do.

According to Mrs. Tromp, the main objective of the National Committee of UNESCO Aruba is to fortify the execution of the mandates of UNESCO by structurally informing the community and creating awareness about the duties of UNESCO Aruba and their importance for Aruba.

**Work areas of UNESCO**

The Secretary General of UNESCO Aruba disclosed the work areas of UNESCO. These include Education, Science, Culture, Communication, and Information. UNESCO's final objective is

to interconnect societies around the world in a way that they reach a culture of peace.

UNESCO International works on these areas based on the programs, projects, and recommendations for policies and agreements. UNESCO Aruba works with local and international stakeholders to realize each theme in all areas. Some are in a more advanced stage, some are more visible, and their impacts are palpable, while some are in continuous development. Mrs. Tromp emphasized the importance of grasping what connects the themes. What does culture have to do with climate? How does culture influence science, and education? How is sport a catalyst for peace and mental health?

**Instruments on the local level**

UNESCO Aruba functions in practice with experts in each area and with stakeholders to work on the themes in each field.

Each expert is an expert in their field and the UNESCO International program. They use this approach based on, among others, investigation, priority, innovation, and inter-sectoral collaboration to work with relevant stakeholders to give content to the themes on the management level, program, project, and/or combination.

UNESCO has a Participation Program that provides financial support to NGO projects in the areas of UNESCO. Every two years, countries can submit a maximum of seven projects. With the agreement

of UNESCO Paris, the NGO receives the funds to finance the project.

**UNESCO Aruba**

UNESCO Aruba comprises a National Commission for UNESCO (NUC) and a secretariat.

The NUC is presided over by the Minister of Culture, Mrs. Xiomara Maduro. The Vice-President is Mrs. Annemarie Proveyer-Groot. The members are Mr. Peter Scholing, Mrs. Regine Croes, and Siegfried Dumfries.

The Council consists of Mrs. Marushka Tromp as Secretary General of the NUC, Mrs. Nora Eleonora as a specialist in education, and Mrs. Ruby Eckmeyer as a specialist in culture. Mr. Marck Oduber is a specialist in Science, and Mrs. Suhail Zaandam is a documentarist of the secretariat.

For more information about UNESCO Aruba and the jobs done by many of its stakeholders, please visit UNESCO Aruba on Facebook. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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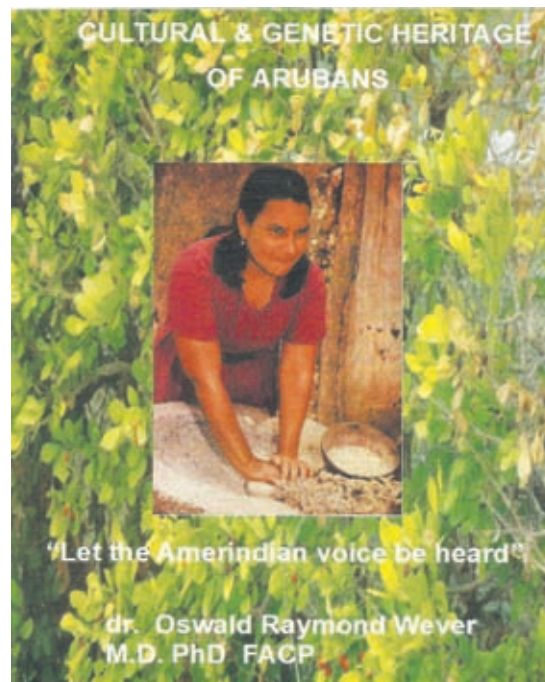


## Aruba cultural identity

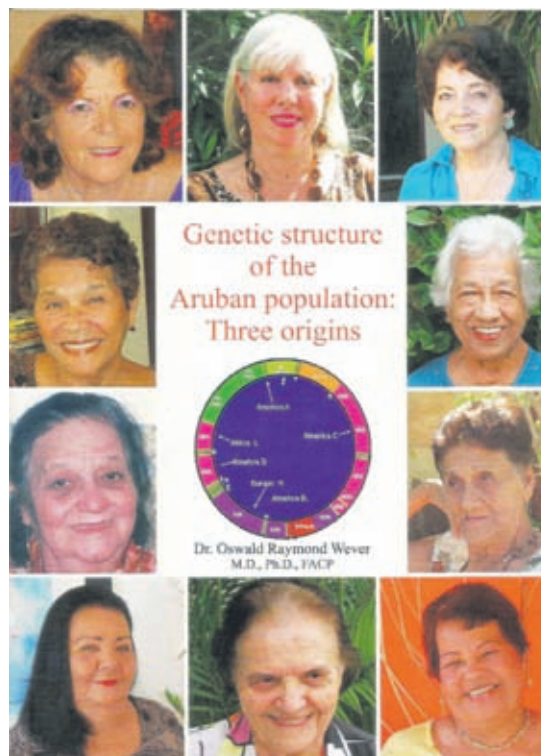
**Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native stories promotes cultural awareness, educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage, guiding the reader in to an island keeper state of mind. Our episodes encourage the reader to discover the true native spirit of our millenarian cultural origins, uncover our Amerindian heritage and the survival of its original people.**

As an entity dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the indigenous identity, Etnia Nativa, in previous episodes addressed the issue of who were the Aruban ancestors –see episode 110- and where they came from and the genetic inheritance of Aruba by maternal line through the analysis of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)- see episode 151. During this episode we will refer to the book recently published and presented at the CCA (Cas di Cultura) by dr. Oswald R. Wever MD, PhD, FACP : "Cultural & Genetic Heritage of Arubans" and consequently the direct support we receive from our native scientist, dedicated professional and prestigious lifelong Bio- researcher who uncovered true value to Etnia Nativa's objective of obtaining the recognition of our ancestral Arubans claim and existence in his publication "Cultural & Genetic Heritage of Arubans"

– "The real "sense of belonging" is the awareness of having emotionally and intellectually incorporated and accepted Aruba's history which includes all those Arubans who existed before one's own existence had even begun".—



Due to our contact and the indisputable conviction of dr. Oswald Wever regarding the contradiction that the indigenous roots of Aruba were totally extinct was an invention. Now a chance presented it self after following a revealing presentation regarding genetics and the native inhabitants of Puerto Rico by Profesor Ph.D. Juan Martínez Cruzado, during the 19th International Congress for Caribbean Archaeology, Aruba July 2001, Etnia Nativa's curator did not hesitate to kick the ball in to action by putting both professionals dr.Oswald Wever and dr.Martínez Cruzado in contact and find out facts behind our own Amerindian genetic story. So it did not take long before the first results were published in dr.Oswald Wever first book ever concerning Aruba's genetic identity and ancestral link. Titled "Genetic structure



## Episode CLXXVII 177

of the Aruban population: Three origins"

The professional support that Etnia Nativa receives, as a pioneer in heritage issues and indigenous matters and values of Aruba from out a private initiative through the publications of Dr. Oswald Wever, affirms our activities that promotes participation in our educational efforts to institutions, foundations and organizations incorporating this notion into practice. Among the pioneering organizations we mention the Aruban Warriors - Aruban Indigenous Movement, which under the leadership of its Chief, Mrs. Helena Croes, fights for the conservation of nature, for the rights of the native inhabitants of Aruba. Aruban Warriors is currently working on the correct definition of who is the true Aruban and why it is so important to save a part of this island for its original people.

After carefully following the explanations of Dr.O.Wever exposed in his latest book "Cultural & Genetic Heritage of Arubans" we verify once again that, despite the fact that our native heritage sometimes denied by government authorities and foreign authors who prefer following other theories, the results of the research and the publications of an Aruban professional with indigenous roots reconfirm the daily task of Etnia Nativa to share through "Island-Insight" the true and real Aruban heritage. Thank you dr. Oswald Wever for making your statement "Let the Amerindian voice be heard" clear and true backed by science, cultural expression, identification and categorization.

We encourage you to do something different outside your tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa our private residence where you will be able to feel authentic Aruba and admire native art collections, archaeological artifacts historical furniture and items, while the construction is the result of mainly applying recycled materials.

Etnia Nativa since 1994 is the home of our columnist/artist, Anthony Croes, who guides his "lecture tours" and guests through an authentic glimpse of Aruba- step by step during an away hour from our crowded beach or hotels. Be part of this fantastic visitor's opportunity. Live the native experience! Appointment is required. + 297 592 2702 or. etnianativa03@gmail.com

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## CEDE Aruba launches Unique Neighborhoods program

ORANJESTAD – Last weekend, CEDE Aruba had a meeting between neighborhood centers and organizations, foundations and government departments. After signing an agreement with the government of Aruba to receive additional funds for work in the neighborhoods and after signing the MoU with all neighborhood centers and organizations, CEDE Aruba brought more partners together for a presentation of the Unique Neighborhoods (Barionan Unico) program, and to give all organizations the opportunity to present their ideas and contributions.

### A total of 50 organizations took part in this event.

The first part of the encounter was a presentation given by the director of CEDE Aruba, Mr. Daniel Tecklenborg. He explained that CEDE Aruba based on the feedback of many organizations expanded its role in the community. In the past, CEDE Aruba was seen as funds to finance and co-finance projects together with funds from the Netherlands. But recently they do much more than this; among other things, they organize training to elevate the capacity of the organizations, bring organizations together to plan and work together, initiates programs and projects and also lobbies for development in different areas.

### This way CEDE Aruba became a catalyst for development in our community.



Relevant topics for the following years are:

1. Empowering the citizen and community initiatives;
2. Prevention programs in our community;
3. Support for vulnerable groups;
4. Support for organizations to become stronger and closer to the necessities in the community.

With the program Unique Neighborhoods, CEDE Aruba will facilitate a very diverse platform for organization and will stimulate collaboration. The point of departure will be that the neighborhoods face all sorts of challenges: social, education, cultural, sports, economic, infrastructure, etc. To arrive at solutions, all these different actors must work together more structurally. This is why the word Unique refers to union, collaboration and the unique

part of each neighborhood, but also each initiative and organization.

In practice, CEDE Aruba will increase operational funds for the selected neighborhood organizations, will give additional funds for projects of foundations in the neighborhood, will provide a small budget to neighborhood initiatives that have plans to improve their neighborhood and will create a media program to empower and motivate families and neighborhoods to take positive action.

Aside from this, it will give guidance and support to organizations in the neighborhood, depending on their needs. It will stimulate growth of more programs and specific projects for groups in risk, like school drop-outs, seniors in loneliness, and people with limitations who no longer participate anywhere. In an ideal case, the programs will be adapted to the needs of each neighborhood.

After a presentation with a lot of information, each of the 50 organizations present was divided into ten groups, and in the form of a carousel, was given the opportunity to present their ideas and contributions. This part was guided by other colleagues of CEDE Aruba. During this activity the event became very

energetic and interactive. In the end, each group shared its feelings regard-

ing the group work and the program, and it can be concluded that the event and the process was positive.

CEDE Aruba and the neighborhood organization thanked each foundation and government department that actively participated. They will now work on a report of all the ideas and distribute this back to each organization. In the following weeks they are searching for additional personnel for the neighborhood centers and organizations in order to improve capacity to execute programs and projects. CEDE Aruba is also forming a small team to provide leadership to the program and the necessary support to all





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 44 Holiday event  
1 Baptized boy  
7 Singer game  
Tori  
46 Designed

- DOWN** 1 Tooth sur-rounder  
2 Early hour  
3 Pulled off  
4 Hunker down  
5 Eject  
6 Orderly  
7 Early calculator  
8 Fast food order  
9 Flamenco cheer  
10 Kinsey topic  
16 Borders cover

- 17 Rose part  
18 Concert site  
19 Sweet soft drink  
21 Colorful flower  
22 Wasn't thrifty  
24 Churlish ones  
25 Floor cover  
30 Latitude  
33 Tired  
35 Nile reptiles  
36 Ham or lamb  
37 Travel aid  
38 Annex  
40 "East of Eden" son  
41 Lyric work  
42 Tie the knot



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-26 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

NQQM PHLY LKEL NETUHQVV  
MQQTPHJ, IYHJ P VLYYN LKQTQ ...  
NTQEGPHJ NTQEGV HY GYTLEI  
QZQT NETQN LY NTQEG FQCYTQ.

— QNJET EIEH MYQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN WITCHES GO RIDING, AND BLACK CATS ARE SEEN, THE MOON LAUGHS AND WHISPERS. "TIS NEAR HALLOWEEN!" — UNKNOWN



Yesterday's answer

## Record number of Americans have bank accounts, gov't says

By KEN SWEET  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The number of Americans who do not have a bank account fell to a record low last year, as the proliferation of online-only banks and an improving economy is bringing more Americans into the traditional financial system.

A new report from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. issued Tuesday found that 4.5% of Americans representing approximately 5.9 million households were without a bank account in 2021. That's the lowest level since the FDIC started tracking the data in 2009 and down from 5.4% of Americans in the 2019 survey data.

The decline in unbanked households may partially be attributed to the coronavirus pandemic. States and the federal government distributed trillions of dollars in stimulus to Americans after COVID-19 shut down the U.S. economy in March 2020. The benefit programs largely needed a bank account to send the funds quickly to those impacted.

"During the pandemic, consumers opened bank accounts to access relief funds and other benefits quickly and securely," said FDIC Acting Chairman Martin J. Gruenberg, in a statement.

But the FDIC attributed most of the improvement to the stronger economy in 2021, as the coronavirus pandemic restrictions largely expired and there were low levels of unemployment.

Black and Hispanic households still remain much more likely to not have a



Twenty dollar bills are counted on June 15, 2018, in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

bank account, although those figures are improving. Roughly 11.3% of Black households are without a bank account, down from 13.8% two years earlier. Among Hispanic households, that figure declined to 9.3% from 12.2%.

The primary reasons for why someone would choose to be unbanked were largely unchanged from previous surveys. One in five unbanked households said not having enough money to maintain an account was the main reason they went without one a sign that being unbanked remains an economic inclusion issue.

The FDIC started tracking unbanked Americans in 2009. In the 2011 data, the number of Americans who were unbanked rose significantly as a result of the Great Recession. While Americans kept their bank accounts through the coronavirus recession, there is a chance the number of unbanked Americans could rise in the future if inflation continues to damage the economy and unemployment increases.

Other households had privacy and trust issues re-

garding banks. Major companies like Amazon have been tracking consumer data via credit card usage for a while now, but banks are taking advantage of this data too.

Americans outside the traditional financial system face numerous obstacles with their daily finances, which is why policymakers push so hard to get unbanked households to open a savings or checking account. Cash checking services, utility payment services, rent payments without a bank account often come with fees, money that a person with a bank account would not be subject to.

New immigrants and refugees are also among the unbanked. Jhuma Acharya, a former refugee from Bhutan and a case manager with Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Columbus, said he sees an increase in clients calling him about businesses that won't accept their cash.

"I have never worked with any single (new) refugee who said they have used a credit card in their life," Acharya said.

Acharya said clients usually take a minimum of five months to build enough credit with banks in the United States to sign up for an account. In the interim, Acharya said they try to educate clients on how to build up to a debit card and use their Electronic Benefits Transfer card. □

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## Endangered whale's decline slows, but population falls again

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —**

The decline of an endangered species of whale slowed last year, as it lost about 2% of its population, but scientists warn the animal still faces existential threats and is losing breeding females too fast.

The North Atlantic right whale's population was more than 480 in 2010 and fell by more than 25% over the following decade. The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, a group of scientists, government officials and industry members, said Monday that the population fell to an estimated 340 last year.

That is a decline of eight animals from the previous year, when the population was initially thought to be even fewer. The whales



**A North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass., March 28, 2018.**

Associated Press

are vulnerable to ship collisions and entanglement in commercial fishing gear, and they have suffered from poor reproduction and high mortality in recent years.

"The reality is we are still seeing unsustainable levels of human impacts on the species," said Heather Pettis, research scientist in the New England Aquarium's

Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life and executive administrator of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium. "We're still injuring these animals to a point where it's not just about survival. It's about health, it's about reproduction." The right whales live off the East Coast and migrate every year from calving grounds off Georgia and Florida to feeding grounds off New England and Canada. They were once abundant but were decimated during the commercial whaling era, when they were hunted for their oil and meat. □

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# Review: 'Wendell & Wild' is a dark and cold animated ride

By **MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

Just in time for Halloween comes a film that isn't afraid to lean into the darkness, one frame at a time. In the first five minutes of "Wendell & Wild," our teen heroine loses her parents in a car accident, her town is economically gutted and she ends up in the back of a prison bus, her legs shackled and her hands cuffed. This is cold stuff. Director Henry Selick's return to stop-motion animation is icy, from the slushy potholes on the roads to the vapor clouds that emerge from characters' mouths. His script with Jordan Peele is equally chilly, a place where alienation, backstabbing and plots abound.

Selick, whose previous films include "The Nightmare Before Christmas," "James and the Giant Peach" and "Coraline," has attracted a starry lineup of actors to supply voices this time: Ving Rhames, James Hong, Angela Bassett, David Harbour and Peele, reunited with his old comedy partner Keegan-Michael Key. Peele and Key play the



This image released by Netflix shows Wendell, voiced by Keegan-Michael Key, left and Wild, voiced by Jordan Peele in a scene from "Wendell & Wild."

**Associated Press**

titular characters, a pair of mid-level, none-too-smart demon brothers who hope to escape drudgery in hell by escaping to the world of the living and opening a fun fair.

Unfortunately, their banter is a little hemmed in, a little less hysterical than anticipated.

They think they've found their way out of hell in the form of 13-year-old Kat Elliott (Lyric Ross), a goth-like rebellious orphan who has

green hair, eyebrow piercings, knee-length platform boots and fingerless studded gloves. She carries a boombox and a doesn't-play-with-others vibe. "I don't do friends," she says. "Bad things happen to people I'm close to."

It is a dark tale, with the action never far from the town's cemetery and coffins seemingly always being cracked open.

There is a stab at social criticism involving an ominous

for-profit company that wants to build a prison so badly it raises the dead to get the city council votes, and a parochial school willing to make a deal with these devils to stay open. Throughout is Selick's idiosyncratic vision. It takes a certain kind of ghoulish humor to bring a Catholic priest back from the dead with a hair-regrowth cream while our two demon brothers celebrate with high-fives as the soundtrack plays

"You Sexy Thing" by Hot Chocolate. In many ways, this film has the creepiness of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" fused with the girl-power of "Coraline" but for less pay-off than either. The animation style includes the hyper-realism of backgrounds and thrilling details like a messy, bubbling pot of sauce or a rusted bulldozer to human characters who have seams on their faces and often long, skinny legs.

A pair of nuns resemble strange fat birds and skeletons with worms in their eyes stumble along. The nifty character designs are credited to designer Pablo Lobato.

Beneath it all is the story of a child's love and guilt and an education and judicial system letting her down which propels her to bring her parents back from the dead, but that gets a little lost in the gross-out humor, Addams Family-level weirdness and shock-for-shock's sake visual gags like a demonic teddy bear. For all the lovingly crafted spectacle, Selick's agonizing, shot-by-shot film, is as over-stuffed as that bear. □

# Naomi Alderman novel 'The Future' scheduled for next fall

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

**AP National Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Novelist

Naomi Alderman is a "what if" kind of writer, as in: What if women were able to re-



Actor Rachel Weisz, left, and author Naomi Alderman appear at a screening of "Disobedience" during the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival in New York on April 24, 2018.

**Associated Press**

lease electricity through their fingers, the premise of her acclaimed bestseller "The Power"?

For her upcoming book, simply and descriptively titled "The Future," she imagined a handful of rogues including an unhappy spouse and a deposed executive overthrowing the masters of Silicon Valley and running the tech world themselves.

"I've seen the rise of these companies that started off with people tooling around on the internet and now look at them. How have we gotten to this point," the British author said in a recent telephone interview. "A lot of them seem to be using their companies for nefarious purposes, like destabilizing democracies and radicalizing people in all

sorts of directions. So I was thinking about whether there was a way for them to work better."

Simon & Schuster announced the novel Tuesday, calling it a blend of "intelligence and storytelling, marrying white-knuckle narrative propulsion with an intellectually dazzling critique of the world we have made, in which a few billionaires profit on the lives of many and lead us willingly to our doom."

"The Future" is scheduled for publication in fall 2023. Alderman, 48, is also known for "The Liars' Gospel" and "Disobedience," adapted into a movie starring Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams. An Amazon Prime Video series based on "The Power" is expected next year after an extended

delay caused in part by the pandemic and by the departure of actors Leslie Mann and Tim Robbins. They were replaced by Toni Collette and Josh Charles. The pandemic also disrupted her own writing. Alderman had been working on a novel tentatively called "The Survivals" about tech billionaires fleeing from a deadly plague but altered it after a real one spread early in 2020. The tech leaders remain, but the pandemic has been decentralized and the "book definitely got less dark," mostly because Alderman wanted "to find some hope," she explained.

"The Future" is her first novel since "The Power," published in 2016 and written under the mentorship of Margaret Atwood. □



# Love 'em or hate 'em, Series-bound Astros keep on winning

By DAVID BRANDT  
AP Sports Writer

They're off to the World Series for a fourth time in six seasons, a remarkable feat of staying power for a franchise in any era of baseball history, let alone one that includes a 12-team playoff gauntlet filled with potential pitfalls.

Astros pitcher Lance McCullers Jr. put it succinctly on Sunday night: "This is not easy."

Even so, the dichotomy that is this generation of Houston Astros will probably never go away.

They left no doubt that they're the best team in the American League this season, sweeping aside slugger Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees in four games after Sunday's 6-5 victory.

It should be a lovable group. There's pint-sized star Jose Altuve, two-time All-Star Alex Bregman, ace right-hander Justin Verlander and a slew of up-and-coming players like ALCS MVP Jeremy Peña, Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker. There's also Dusty Baker, the 73-year-old manager who is still searching for his first World Series title and the oldest man to lead a team to the Fall Classic.

And yet...

The stench of the 2017 cheating scandal when



Houston Astros players, from left, Mauricio Dubon, Jeremy Peña, Jose Altuve, and Alex Bregman, joke before Game 2 of an American League Division Series baseball game Seattle Mariners in Houston, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022.

the Astros were found to have illicitly stolen signs that season still lingers, even though 21 of the 26 players on this year's ALCS roster were not on the 2017 team. Only Altuve, Bregman, McCullers, Verlander and Yuli Gurriel remain. The quintet has endured a firehose of hate from fans and even fellow players since the scandal was brought to light before the 2020 season. The catcalls were still heard at Yankee Stadium over the past few days, but as the Astros piled up the

runs and wins, there was a hint of another emotion. Grudging respect.

"They got better treatment here this time than in previous times here," Baker said. "So maybe it was a different crowd or maybe the crowd has finally forgiven things of the past."

That's probably wishful thinking. But it's also probably time to admit that these Astros trash cans or no trash cans are simply really good at baseball.

"When everything happened a few years ago,

we knew the one thing that we could do is we could win and we could win and win a lot," McCullers said. "I understand people are still not going to like us. They're going to boo us, but at some point you have to respect what we're doing." It's a franchise that's kept rolling despite the upheaval the cheating scandal wrought. Manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a year by MLB and eventually fired before being replaced by Baker

and James Click. Many of the best players from that 2017 team have retired or moved on to other teams. Star outfielder George Springer left for the Blue Jays. Two-time All-Star shortstop Carlos Correa signed with the Twins. Right-handed pitcher Charlie Morton left for the Rays and is now with the Braves.

Altuve is among those who have witnessed it all. Now his team is back in the World Series: The Astros host the Phillies in Game 1 on Friday. "When you talk about Springer, Charlie Morton, Carlos Correa, you're talking about all superstars, and to get players to fill that spot it's not easy," Altuve said before Game 4 on Sunday. "The fact that we're still playing really good and being in these situations, like I said, we just have to give a lot of credit to the front office group." Judge set the AL record for homers with 62 this season and the debate raged about whether he should be considered the all-time single-season record holder. Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa all hit more in the National League, but for many, their accomplishments are overshadowed by links to performance-enhancing drugs. Now the debate will rage about the Astros. □

## AP source: Schumaker hired as manager of Miami Marlins

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Sports Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — Skip Schumaker was a candidate to take over as manager of the Boston Red Sox and New York Mets in recent years, only to see those clubs pick someone else. The Miami Marlins didn't let him get away.

Schumaker has been hired by the Marlins to become the 16th manager in franchise history, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the Marlins had not announced the hiring.

He comes to Miami from St. Louis, where he spent this season as the bench coach. Schumaker had been a first-base coach and associate manager for San Diego from 2018 through 2021, then joined the Cardinals' staff.

The 42-year-old Schumaker takes over in Miami for Don Mattingly, who managed the Marlins for seven seasons. Mattingly went 443-587 with Miami, winning the NL Manager of the Year award after leading the Marlins to the playoffs in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

Mattingly's contract expired when this season

ended, and he and the Marlins' front office owner Bruce Sherman and general manager Kim Ng agreed it would be best for both sides not to enter into a new deal.

That prompted a search by Miami, and Schumaker became the pick.

Schumaker played in the majors for 11 seasons, mostly with the Cardinals, and now gets his first managerial opportunity with Miami which shares a spring training complex in Jupiter, Florida, with St. Louis.

Schumaker was a starter for the Cardinals team that won the 2011 World Series. The California native bat-

ted .278 in 1,149 games while primarily playing second base and the outfield. He retired in March 2016

while in camp with the Padres on a minor-league deal. □



This is a 2022 photo of Skip Schumaker, bench coach of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team.

Associated Press



# No offense but 2022 NFL is no league for old men

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**  
AP Pro Football Writer

**DENVER (AP)** — Defenses have finally figured out how to keep all those high-powered offenses from lighting up NFL scoreboards, and they're also showing that in 2022 this is no league for old men.

Tom Brady, whose unreirement at age 45 is looking like a big mistake, was held without a touchdown throw Sunday by a woe-filled Carolina Panthers team that throttled the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 21-3 after trading its best player and starting a third-string quarterback.

Aaron Rodgers, 38, was held without so much as a third-down conversion or one on fourth down, for that matter for the first time in his career in the Green Bay Packers' 23-21 loss to Washington and Taylor Heinicke.

Matt Ryan, 37, separated his throwing shoulder in the Indianapolis Colts' 19-10 loss at Tennessee, but coach Frank Reich said Monday that's not why he's benching his bruised and battered 15-year veteran in favor of second-year QB Sam Ehlinger.

Russell Wilson, sidelined by a pulled hamstring, donned a headset instead of a helmet in Denver, where the offensively-challenged Broncos lost another close one Sunday with backup Brett Rypien making his second career start against the Jets.

Nathaniel Hackett said afterward that Wilson was trending toward returning against the Jaguars in London next weekend, although it might be best for the 33-year-old QB who's off to the worst start of his career to sit out until after the Broncos' bye and return against the Titans on Nov. 13.

There's a multitude of reasons for the quarterbacks' struggles and the league-wide dip in point production so far, including more blitzes and a rash of elite receivers getting traded, leaving their former teams to recreate chemistry, which takes time.



**Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) lays on the turf with Washington Commanders defensive end James Smith-Williams (96) over him after an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022, in Landover, Md. The Commanders won 23-21.**

A major factor is the explosion of shell coverages where players cover portions of the field to form a "shell" defense, a strategy popularized by former Broncos coach Vic Fangio that is menacing offensive play-callers and ruffling quarterbacks this season, especially in the red zone. Some of the game's most accomplished QBs are really feeling the pinch.

Brady doesn't look like a seven-time Super Bowl winner without retired sidekick Rob Gronkowski, and Rodgers doesn't look like the league's two-time reigning MVP without pal Davante Adams, who was traded to the Raiders in the offseason.

Conversely, Patrick Mahomes, 27, doesn't look like he misses superstar speedster Tyreek Hill at all. Mahomes already has thrown for 20 touchdowns, putting him on pace for 48, just shy of the 50 he threw his first season as a starter in 2018.

He's averaged 34 TDs over the last three seasons, all with Hill, who asked out of

Kansas City in the offseason and was dealt to the Dolphins.

"I know this sounds crazy, but I'm telling you, they're a better offense without Tyreek Hill," NBC Sports analysts Chris Simms said on "Football Night in America."

Josh Allen, 26, also is on pace for 48 TDs, and Joe Burrow, 25, is on pace to throw for three dozen touchdowns.

Lamar Jackson, 25, has 13 TD throws, three shy of last year's total, and he's fifth in the league with 510 rushing yards.

Mahomes, Allen, Burrow and Jackson make up the league's new upper echelon of elite quarterbacks, supplanting the likes of Brady, Rodgers, Ryan and Wilson.

With 11 TDs through seven weeks, Rodgers is on pace for half about half of Mahomes' projected TD total 26 after throwing for 37 last year and 48 the year before.

Counting playoffs, Brady had 96 TD throws his first two seasons in Tampa, mir-

roring Peyton Manning's renaissance in Denver in the second chapter of his Hall of Fame career.

But he has just eight through seven games this season, putting him on pace for 19. That would be his lowest in a healthy season since his first year as the Patriots' starter in 2001, when he had 18 TDs.

Like Brady's Bucs, the Packers are 3-4 following three straight years of Rodgers going 13-3.

Their common struggles have led to both scuffling superstars dressing down teammates over dropped passes or missed assignments.

At least they'll get the chance to turn things around. Ryan won't, even though he the Colts took on the more than \$50 million remaining on his salary when they acquired him from Atlanta in the offseason.

Nowhere is the league's tilt toward defense more pronounced than in Denver, where the Broncos are giving up just 16.4 points a game but are 2-5 because

their odious offense is averaging just 14.3 points per game.

That has Denver fans wondering if they didn't get themselves a lemon in Wilson, who cost the Broncos three players and four high draft picks plus a \$245 million extension before the season.

Wilson's five TD throws in six games puts him on pace for 13 this season, a year after he threw for 25 touchdowns and two years after he had a career-best 40 in Seattle.

His struggles in Hackett's hybrid offense come just months after the Walton-Penner ownership group paid a global sports record \$4.65 billion for the team but have seen thousands of empty seats at Empower Field and thousands of fans streaming for the exits in crunch time to beat the traffic rather than watch the Broncos fall short again.

Hackett is on the hot seat just two months into his rookie season as head coach and general manager George Paton might be getting sweaty himself. "When your defense is playing as well as our defense is you shouldn't be losing games."

That's just point blank, period, a fact," Rypien said after the Broncos' 16-9 loss to the Jets Sunday that gave them five losses by an average of 4.6 points.

"We have to figure out what we can do to turn this thing around," said Rypien, echoing Brady in Tampa, Rodgers in Green Bay and Reich in Indianapolis as their teams stumble toward the season's halfway point with unenviable records, sputtering offenses and few, if any, answers. □



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